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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. Introduction

1. The present addendum is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65 of 26 October 1999 adopted by the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1999.

2. By draft resolution II contained in chapter I, section D, of the report on its twentieth session (E/1999/43), the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods recommended that the Economic and Social Council decide to reconfigure, as from 2001, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

3. The report of the Committee, and the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council relating to the programme budget implications of draft resolution II (E/1999/L.48), were submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1999. However, in its decision 1999/289, the Council decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution to its resumed substantive session of 1999.

4. At its resumed substantive session of 1999, on 26 October 1999, the Economic and Social Council adopted draft resolution II recommended by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. That draft resolution became Council resolution 1999/65. The additional requirements resulting from Council resolution 1999/65 are described below.

II. Additional requirements entailed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65

5. In paragraphs 1 and 4 of its resolution 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, the Economic and Social Council:

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(a) Decided to reconfigure, as from 2001, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its Subcommittee into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with one Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and a second Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with terms of reference and arrangements as described in the annex to the resolution, and provided that the total meeting time did not exceed that currently allocated to the work of the Committee in a biennium;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to provide, not later than 1 January 2001, adequate resources to the Transport Division of the Economic Commission for Europe and plan sessions of the Subcommittees and the reconfigured Committee for 2001 and 2002, as appropriate, in accordance with the arrangements outlined in the annex to the resolution.

6. The above decisions of the Economic and Social Council relate to section 18. Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[1] The detailed additional activities and resource requirements entailed by these decisions are contained in document E/1999/L.48 and could be summarized as follows:

(a) Organization and preparation of the follow-up to the sessions of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the reconfigured Committee (including agendas, reports and preparation of documentation in accordance with rules and procedures);

(b) Preparation of secretariat documents;

(c) Clerical work related to invitations, correspondence with experts and permanent missions and the receipt, checking, word processing and translation of documents submitted by experts for consideration by the Subcommittee.

7. The related additional resource requirements for general temporary assistance to carry out these activities during the year 2001 were estimated at $149,800. This amount includes $94,800 for 12 work-months at the P-4 level and $55,000 for 12 work-months at the General Service level.

III. Conclusions

8. In summary, the requests contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/65 give rise to requirements of $149,800 for the biennium 2000-2001 under section 18. Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. No provisions have been made under that section to cover these requirements.

9. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

10. It is not possible, at this stage, to identify activities within section 18. Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during that biennium to finance the costs of the additional activities recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/65.

11. Consequently, an additional provision of $149,800 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 18. Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require related additional appropriation of $149,800 under section 18. Economic development in Europe.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1), vols. I-III and addendum (A/54/6/Rev.1/Add.1).